



Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey and Certification Group

**Ref: S&C-04-43
Revised**

DATE: August 12, 2004

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: **Final Adjustment in Implementation Date -- October 1, 2004** National Transition Date for the Automated Survey Processing Environment (ASPEN) Enforcement Manager (AEM) for Nursing Homes

Letter Summary

- The revision announces that the national transition date for AEM has been changed to October 1, 2004. This change replaces the October 4, 2004 implementation date that was originally specified in S&C-04-43.
- The date change will allow us to have complete fiscal year 2005 information for all nursing home survey activity that begins concurrent with the new fiscal year.

The date for national transition to AEM has been changed to October 1, 2004, and therefore, supercedes the October 4, 2004 date specified in S&C-04-43.

We apologize for any confusion this date change may have caused, but we believe that moving the date forward by three days to coincide with the beginning of the new fiscal year is in the best long-term interest. The change to October 1, 2004 will allow capture of survey and enforcement activity for the full fiscal year 2005 for the Federal budget cycle and any other State whose statistics are based on the Federal fiscal year or otherwise compute statistics based on full months. This date adjustment will enable use of the enhanced features of the new AEM system for *all* nursing home survey cycles that begin on the first day of the fiscal year, or the full month of October.

Thank you for your continued support as we move forward with this comprehensive and important initiative.

Effective Date: Immediately.

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Training: This information should be distributed to all survey and certification staff, their managers, and the state/RO training coordinator.

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management (G-5)